



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the General Law Committee

March 2, 2016

**Commissioner Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
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House Bill #5450 - An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports House Bill #5450, An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana. This bill expands the list of debilitating medical conditions that qualify a patient for a medical marijuana registration certificate. The bill also broadens the definition of a qualifying patient to include a patient under 18 years old as long as they have written consent from a custodial parent or

The Department has received numerous calls from health care providers wondering whether or not a licensed nurse is prohibited from administering medical marijuana to a patient with a medical marijuana registration certificate. This bill clarifies that a nurse may administer medical marijuana to a qualifying patient without being subject to DPH disciplinary action or other state legal actions related solely to the administration of the medical marijuana.

Since this bill broadens the definition of a qualifying patient to one of any age, the Department appreciates the proposal to add a Board-certified pediatrician to the Board of Physicians established by the Department of Consumer Protection to advice on the palliative use of marijuana.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to share its view of this proposal.